

Serial No.: 10/707,375  
Attorney Docket No.: F-628

Patent

**Amendment To The Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for tracking checks through a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:
  - obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;
  - receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;
  - receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;
  - receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;
  - associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and
  - sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein,  
the postal tracking ~~number~~identifier is a PIC code.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein,  
the postal tracking ~~number~~identifier is received from a user.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein,  
the check identifier includes an ABA routing number, an account number and a check number.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein,  
the check identifier includes an identifier provided by a check tracking data center.
6. (original) A method for providing check tracking information to a user comprising:
  - obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece that includes a check;

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receiving check information identifying the check;  
associating the postal tracking identifier with the check information;  
receiving check processing information associated with second check  
information;  
receiving mail piece tracking information associated with the postal tracking  
identifier; and  
associating the mail piece tracking information with the check processing  
information.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising,  
    authenticating the user; and  
    providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing  
information to the user.
8. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising,  
    receiving the postal tracking identifier from a third party; and  
    providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing  
information to the third party.
9. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising,  
    obtaining a third tracking number associated with the check;  
    receiving the third tracking number from a third party;  
    receiving a pin code associated with the third tracking number from the third  
party; and  
    providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing  
information to the third party.
10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein,

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the check processing information includes an indication of whether the check has been paid.

11. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein,

the check processing information includes a processing history including time stamps and an indication of whether the check has been refused.

12. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein,

the postal tracking identifier is a PIC code.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein,

the postal tracking ~~number~~ identifier is received from a user.

14. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising

requesting the mail piece tracking information from a postal system server.

15. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising

requesting the check processing information from a bank system server.

16. (original) A method for tracking checks through a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:

obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;

receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;

receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;

receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;

associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and

sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user,

wherein the postal tracking number is generated by a mailing machine.

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17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

transmitting the postal tracking ~~code~~identifier from the mailing machine to a central postal data center.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

printing the postal tracking ~~code~~identifier on the mail piece using the mailing machine.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein,

the postal tracking data and the check tracking data is sent to the user via the mailing machine.